

**The Times-Dispatch**

Business Office.....101 E. Main Street,  
Richmond, Va.  
Telephone Bureau.....100 N. Second Street,  
Richmond, Va.

BY MAIL. One Six Three One  
Year, Mo. Mo. Mo. Mo.  
Daily with Sunday.....\$10.00 \$3.00 \$1.50  
Daily without Sunday.....4.00 1.00 .50  
Sunday edition only.....1.00 .50 .25  
Weekly (Wednesday).....1.00 .50 .25

By Times-Dispatch Carrier Delivery Service in Richmond (and suburbs) and Petersburg—  
One Week  
Daily with Sunday.....15 cents  
Daily without Sunday.....10 cents  
Sunday only.....5 cents

Entered January 27, 1908, at Richmond, Va., as second-class matter under act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1912.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE PLUNDER-BUND**

If dictagraphs and cameras could have been freely used in the Capitol yesterday there would be heaped up voluminous evidence that certain officeholders in Virginia have unlimited influence with certain legislators. The feed opponents of the West fee publicity bill worked all day and night. The camera would have caught pictures of legislators conferring with officeholders, always ending by the legislators bowing his head as if in acquiescence. It is said that the officeholders' lobby yesterday was the largest ever seen at the Capitol and the most active. Right under the statue of Washington a city clerk of one of our largest cities was carrying his fellow officeholders and taking them behind the glass cases in the agricultural exhibit. Behind the curtains in the House a stout and florid officeholder, whose face is as familiar as that of any legislator around the Capitol, was buttonholing and arguing; later he had a lot of his fellow fee grabbers huddled around him, their heads close to his head, just like a coach telling his players what to do in a football game. Little lean genies, with the insolent eyes of confident wardhealers, slipped in and out, reported, and then set off on the trail of another legislator. Later in the day, near the House lobby, one of the clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia and a court clerk of a seaport city were seen talking together—about the weather, of course. It was but a coincidence that they are each reputed to receive anywhere from \$10,000 to \$15,000 in fees every year. Of course, they had no interest in the West fee publicity bill and no objection to letting the people know just how much they do get!

Earlier in the morning, at the hearing before the House Committee on Finance, some of the official gentry were there, the advance guard of the army that stormed the House later. As the Times-Dispatch thought, the opponents of fee publicity had no real reasons for their antagonism. They had a Norfolk lawyer there, his name was Jeffries, "Jimmy" Trehy, clerk of the Corporation Court of Norfolk, was there, and a man named Donohoe in the office of Auditor. The case which the fee officers put up was as weak as water and as transparent as glass. No wonder the House Committee on Finance gave the bill a favorable report. The case had to go by default.

The West fee publicity bill will, in all probability, be called up in the House this morning by Delegate Brewer of Nansemond. A two-thirds vote will be required to take the bill out of its order—the bill was deliberately delayed in the Senate Committee on Finance so long that when it finally came to the House it was thrown in the cabbage of the calendar. The night will come upon the motion to take up. The vote on this motion should be recorded.

The Times-Dispatch again puts the House and the people of Virginia on notice that a vote of "yea" on the motion to take up the West bill out of its order is a direct vote against the bill. The old excuse, "I favored the bill but believed in taking up bills in their order" would be, and the people won't take it in this case. The people know that hundreds of bills have been taken up out of their order and run through to final vote, and there is no reason why this bill, which recommended in messages by Governor Mann, endorsed unanimously by the Virginia press, unanimously demanded by the people, should not have the same consideration that is shown a bill to erect a ushdam in Carroll county.

The Times-Dispatch charges that certain members of the House are already pledged to vote against taking up the bill out of its order and that such promises have been made by these individual legislators because of threats and promises and the influence of fee officers. Whosoever votes against this bill or the motion to take it up votes against the right of the people to know what their hired men get.

The Times-Dispatch believes that the people have a right to full publicity as to their government. A denial of that right is undemocratic and opposed to the principles upon which our government is based. Many who differ from us in regard to other questions affecting officeholders' conduct heartily with us in saying that the interference of the fee officeholders in blocking a bill to grant the people publicity is outrageous and intolerable.

Much has been said about "the people" in this General Assembly; much has been done in their name. Among those who have so invoked "the people" are such Delegates as Judge Martin Williams, Hugh A. White and Walter T. Oliver. These gentlemen, we have no doubt, will not take the position, by voting against the West bill, that the people have no right to know their own business. Those who have declared that they represent the people are estopped by that declaration from voting against this bill. In the House elections in 1911 it will be easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for members of the House who voted against the West bill to gain re-election. This issue of publicity will not die; the West bill may die, but the people will be reminded again and again and on and on of the names of the men who voted against the West bill or the motion to take it up. The fullest publicity will be given by the newspapers of the Commonwealth to the names of those public servants who deny the people that publicity which is their right. The people will never be allowed to forget the names of those who refused them their plain right.

A man who will vote against the people's right to publicity is not a representative of the people. A man who will obey the officeholders, and not the people, will obey any boss, any interest, any gang or any foe of democracy.

Gentlemen of the House, do you represent the people or do you represent the officeholders? Let your people know to-day by your vote on the motion to take up the West bill, and on the bill if it is taken up out of its order. If there are members of the House who represent the officeholders, they will prove that fact to-day by voting against the motion to take up. The people have a right to be heard, and gentlemen of the House, they will answer at the polls if you choke off their cry for publicity to-day.

Are you for or against the people? Do you believe in democracy or the domination of officeholders? If you vote against the West bill, you do not represent the people.

The question is, gentlemen of the House, the people of the plunder-bund?

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IN CHINA**

Notwithstanding the benightedness, gloom, superstition and hidebound conservatism that for centuries have enshrouded China and made any other code of religion, morals and man's duty to his fellowman—and the disciples thereof—save Confucianism, perverted Buddhism, or Taoism, "a by-word and a hissing," among the masses of her people, the light of Christianity is shining steadily there, and with ever increasing brightness and penetration into Chinese mind and heart. The scope of its radiance is ever widening. Notwithstanding the political upheaval that for years has been threatening, and continues to threaten, the very foundations of all governmental order, the Cross is firmly planted there, and will never be cast down; the sacred tree on which the Saviour bled and died will never be uprooted.

Eloquent testimony to this glorious condition of the present and assurance for the future is given by the Rev. S. Harrington Little, who knows China from resident and consecrated labor, and who will this afternoon in St. James Church and to-night in St. Paul's Church deliver addresses in the interest of mission work in that country. The spread of the Gospel in China, which has been immensely stimulated by contact of Chinese students and publicists with the Occidental world, embraces many of the nation's leading and most influential men. Dr. Sun Yat Sen, who was provisional governor of the new republic, is a Christian, as are also two-thirds of the provisional assembly of China, and thousands upon thousands of less prominent natives scattered throughout the land and striving to leave the degraded mass of their fellowmen with the leaves of salvation, are the products of mission schools.

Mr. Little testifies that the Chinese are eager to-day for Christian teaching, but he "has been compelled to instruct some of his Chinese assistants to receive no more inquirers because his staff is too small to give proper preparation to many who want to come into the church." This afternoon and to-night he will tell his hearers of the need of China for laborers in the vineyard of the Master, and of the need of those directing the laborers for money necessary to do faithfully and effectively their part. He will ask them how long China shall hunger and thirst after righteousness before the one is satisfied to the fullest with the bread of life, and the other with the living waters. He would know how long it is to be the predestined "light of the world" shall be the light of all China, showing his resplendent, supernatural, burning, divine rays reflecting the glory of the one and only true God into every false god, haunted fastness of the ancient empire, and thence over its borders to dissipate the shadows of debasing superstition and break its enslaving and debauching grasp forever.

"God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

Who shall say that among these wonders is not the way of regeneration of China, not only religiously and morally, but in emergence into a stable representative modern form of government, through the triumph of the Cross? If yes, and in the light of the revelation of Mr. Little, and others as to the progress China has already made under the guidance of the beacon of Christianity, what is the obligation of the Christian world—the responsibility of civilization and humanity—to come to the aid of the mission cause in China in this her hour of sorest trial? It is one of the

gravest and heaviest burdens ever laid on mankind's soul and conscience. Thus spake the prophet Joel of old in his day:

"Put ye in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe; come, get you down, for the press is full; the fats overflow; for their wickedness is great."

So it is in this day!

**SEGREGATE THE FEEBLE-MINDED.**

The Times-Dispatch urges the Senate Finance Committee this morning to report favorably the bill for a feeble-minded colony. It urges the Senate to take the bill up out of its order and make it a law. Immediate action is necessary. For the sake of economy, for the sake of humanity, for the sake of a clean, virile people, this bill should pass. These are the reasons:

These people cannot be cured. The only remedy is custodial care of the present generation, and prevention of their increase.

The appropriation asked is only \$15,000 with which to make a beginning in connection with the present epileptic farm. Part of the current expenses of the colony will be borne by the actual healthful labor of the inmates themselves. This is impossible unless they are collected in one place and properly directed.

This measure will cut down the cost and danger of caring for defectives in private families. Many families are impoverished by the burden of one such inmate. They are a source of anguish, humiliation and expense. In a centralized institution they can be protected, cared for and taught to help themselves.

Unrestrained, many of these defectives are foredoomed to become criminal and immoral. Nearly 25 per cent. of youths in reformatories are mentally deficient. By segregation the cause of crime and immorality can be cut at the root. The cost of legal proceedings, detention and the useless sacrifice of life will be eliminated. It is outrageous that these uncontrolled specimens should be allowed to remain free, and only recognized when they have committed some offense against themselves or society.

Of the 6,000 defectives in the State, 300 are women of child-bearing age. Statistics show that they average eleven children apiece. These children become charges upon the State, and cost on an average \$150 a year. By segregating fifty of these women, the cost of supporting them will be reduced, and the expense of caring for their constantly increasing offspring be absolutely done away with. This latter cost increases in geometrical progression. It contaminates the life of the people, and its effects are so far-reaching that the total cost cannot even be estimated.

If these children are born, by heredity they are destined to be feeble-minded, idiotic, epileptic, deaf-mute, blind, imbecile, paupers, tramps or criminals. Each case is a new burden upon the taxpayer.

The counties will gradually be relieved of caring for these members in expensive and half-way fashion.

The doctors of the State and the corrective and charitable organizations favor this plan.

Healthy human life is the State's first asset. Upon it depends the use of natural advantages and all material and spiritual progress. It rests with the Senate to cut off in the life of the community a strain of weakness that is a costly burden and a growing menace.

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD IN CHINA.**

"Nightly firing of what seems to be cannon south of Peking aroused curiosity. It has not been possible to ascertain the cause, but it is thought that villagers are firing signals to scare off robbers." This unseemly disturbance "south of Peking" should be investigated. It is calculated to arouse curiosity. These sounds may not be signals at all—though a well-dressed jingal ought to scare off even the most hardened robber—they may be excited patriots feeling the uplift and popping Belfast anger ale bottles in wild abandon; they may be made by diminutive-footed suffragettes "hooping" the police and smashing all the sampans in town; they may be the fatal firecrackers of the first Chinese Fourth of July; they may be somebody adding a couple of stories to the Chinese Wall to make it a tariff wall; they may be somebody snoring. But it is wrong to blame what seem to be cannon on perfectly innocent jingals.

Mr. Perkins says concerning his visit to T. R. "I went down to Oyster Bay, left the envelope and came back. Didn't he get a receipt?"

The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities might buy the Senate conception of popular government.

Democratic presidential possibilities might get out an injunction against the Republican usurpation of all the space in the papers, but what better Democratic campaign matter could they furnish themselves?

The miracle of green grass after the snow recalls what a cheerful sight the dove and olive branch must have been to Noah.

Uncle Simpson Pepper says the kind of recall he believes in is one that will bring the cows home from the end of 'nuthin' in the far pasture without him leaving the kitchen fire.

The difficulties of jurisdiction between the Water Committee and the Education Committee of the Council emphasize the fact that, regardless of ability, the mere clean-cut definition of duties in the new Administrative Board will further municipal efficiency and economy.

Now is the time to lay in a stock of fishing tackle against the insidious assaults of spring fever.

**On the Spur of the Moment**

By Roy K. Moulton

Down to the Grocery Store. Excitement's runnin' wild these days down to the grocery store. The patriots ain't got no time to do a single chore. They can't play no attention to the farmwork any more. Bekuz they've got to make a choice 'Twixt Taft and Theodore.

The fate of this here nation rests upon what they may do; They're going to set the thing to rights; before they have got through.

They're runnin' down each rumor and they're follerin' each clew. And not a d— goes by but what they dig up something new.

Looks like the farms around these parts will raise a crop of weeds, Bekuz our men have got to 'tend to these here country's needs; They keep on diggin' up new things and stricklin' brand new leads. And sorvin' of one's country is the grandest of all deeds.

The wimmin' round these parts all think it is a doggone bore; They've heard so much of politics, they don't want any more. But politics is pillin' up and arguments galore. It makes a good excuse to loaf down to the grocery store.

Caught on the Fly. Uncle Andy Carnegie says any man can make money. Uncle Andy, by the way, never wrote poetry for the magazines.

Now that gum chewing is no longer allowed in the navy it is possible that in time the pink teeth and bridge whist contests will be eliminated.

A debating club in Kansas has decided that a bald man can't be a hero. This is a terrible slap at Richmond Pearson Hobbs.

It has been suggested that the Colonel organize a Saphira club, but the Colonel will not, for he is always a Gentleman.

It is some difficult to tell right now whether a statesman is a progressive standpatter or a standstill progressive. It is said a Republican has been elected covered in South Carolina. He is probably a tourist.

The railroad have ordered 60,000 new freight cars. This will be welcome news to the stranded theatrical companies that want to get back to Broadway.

So far as is known none of the presidential candidates at the present time were born in a log cabin. The press agents are overlooking a bet.

Belated Scandals. (Historians are beginning to tell tales about some very popular idols. They have lifted the lids from the private lives of so many old statesmen and have attempted to shatter so many ideals of late that it is getting to be a national scandal.)

They tell us that John Hancock almost served a term in jail. And that he had to hustle 'round a lot to fix his bail.

They say that our George Washington used to cut nights in a hack, and that he never bit that famous cherry tree a whack.

They say he bought the Indians and paid 'em off in rum.

And down the way and festive pike he used to amble some.

They say he doised his taxes and that sometimes he would swear; In fact they've knocked him something fierce and laid his secrets bare.

They've tried to pull the laurels from the brow of Paul Revere. They say a hobby was the only horse he'd ever near.

They've dug up family skeletons and held them to the light.

And say that Lafayette finked out and was a afraid of light.

They say Pat Henry didn't speak on "Liberty or Death."

And that B. Franklin often had frumment on his breath.

But let them tell their funny tales, we really must get along.

These "eminent historians" have got to live, somehow.

Our Ideas. Of nothing to read—the Congressional Record. Of nothing to eat—a political banquet. Of nothing to smoke—a cubed cigarette. Of nothing to wear—a white duck suit. Of nothing to hear—a student's plans recital. Of nothing to bite—an ice cream soda. Of nothing to see—plug-hug jugglers. Of nothing to love—a pug dog. Of nothing to kiss—a militant suffragette. Of nothing to marry—a French count.

**Voice of the People**

Liquor in Virginia. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir: Having been a resident of the county of Albemarle for the past five years and a native of Virginia, and having taught in the public schools in practically every section of the State, I feel that it is incumbent upon me to mitigate to a certain extent the absolutely erroneous impression your contributor, under the caption of "Liquor in Virginia," has recently made.

Presumably, in a reminiscent mood, he says that he longs for the sight



**RICH OR POOR?**

A Comparison of the Relative Material Advantages and Disadvantages of the Rich-Man and the Poor-Man.

By John T. McCutcheon.

(Copyright: 1912: By John T. McCutcheon.)

For eight of every twenty-four hours they are to all purposes practically even, with the likelihood that the poor man has the advantage.

In the matter of clothing, the rich man has more clothes to wear. However, the more he wears, the more he wears out, and the more he wears out, the more he has to buy, etc., etc. Fine feathers make fine birds, but who wants to be a bird?

As to breakfast—the rich man has better food, but the poor man usually has a better appetite. The enjoyment of a meal depends more upon the appetite of the eater than the quality of the eaten.

The poor man usually has his wife and family with him. The rich man's wife is in Europe and his children get up too late in the morning to see him. The relative advantages or disadvantages of having the wife with one depends altogether upon the wife.

The morning paper. They are about even in this respect. When a man reads a paper he doesn't think of anything else. The rich man is not congratulating himself on his possessions or the poor man commiserating himself on his lack of them. The rich man is roasted offensively, and the often he is roasted the more the poor man enjoys the paper.

Going downtown the poor man rides in a drafty street car and sneezes; the rich man rides in an automobile and freezes.

The poor man worries about his bills, but he doesn't worry about the tenant. The rich man worries about his taxes. If he can dodge them, that is different. When you see a rich man who doesn't kick you can be sure that he's done some skillful dodging.

The poor man's friends are his friends. The rich man has reason to suspect the motives of many who pretend to be his friends. The poor man works, the rich man has leisure, and it's wonderful how many symptoms of ailments one can discover if he has the time to think about them.

The poor man sits in the gallery and sees the play. The rich man sits in the boxes and sees a mixture of millinery and hears the orchestra.

of the clear-eyed, clean-faced men one sees in the North and West, where he would doubtless have one believe that all were immune from the practice of intemperance in any form, and whose offspring were not stamped with the stigma of debauchery and immorality, as he depicts it, in reference to the people of this State.

Being "utterly appalled and sickened" by the well-known universal drunkenness" he alleges to find on his return, I feel that he is doing himself a great injustice by remaining in a community where his ideals, aspirations and morals are not commensurate with his.

Having carefully read his article, which should be classed as libelous and defamatory, I have failed utterly to find the slightest vestige of truth in any of his assertions.

Charlotteville. W. W. BRYAN.

**A Modification of Richmond Building Law.** To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir:—Thirty-one of Richmond's most prominent and most progressive real estate men, and a large number of attorneys and business men, are signers to a petition asking for the passage of the bill before the Legislature allowing the right of appeal from the Police Court on the part of owners of condemned buildings.

The Senate committee, by passing this act, that the present conditions give too much power to one man; that is, a common practice of the Police Court to condemn buildings, as represented by him, have been recognized by the Rev. John G. Scott that a grant of appeal, which is a right of appeal, is a right of appeal, and that in one case the Police Court refused to hear expert builders, who were present for the purpose of testifying that the building was safe and should not be condemned; and that in answer to a note of appeal he was told that no right of appeal existed. Attention is called to the fact that in other cases before the Police Court if the amount involved was \$20,000 or less, the owner has the right of appeal, while in the case of condemned buildings there is no right of appeal, regardless of the value of the property in question.

Mr. H. R. Pollard, Jr., chairman of the Finance Committee and senior member of the firm of Pollard & Bagby, appears to be the only agent actively opposing the passage of this act, but is ably backed up by Mr. H. R. Pollard, City Attorney, and the Building Inspector. The City Attorney reported that a right of appeal existed under the present law, provided that parties who wished to appeal would give bond, since which time he has stated that he did not intend to convey the idea which might be deducted from this article that the present law in terms gives an appeal, but that any person aggrieved by arbitrary or unlawful action on the part of the Building Inspector, sustained by the Police Court, might obtain an injunction in a court of equity by giving bond. The parties favoring this bill prefer not discussing whether the decisions of the Building Inspector are or are not arbitrary or unlawful, feeling that the members of the present Assembly should realize that it is contrary to an enlightened idea of good government to leave as much power in the hands of one man.

Before the House committee it is reported that the City Attorney stated that the Monticello Hall collapsed of its own motion while the matter was being fought over in Police Court. This, it is admitted by the contractor who wrecked this building, is a mistake; that the same did not fall of its own accord. In this connection it will be recalled that the owner of Monticello Hall wished to build for the Globe Clothing Company; that after signing a lease agreeing to deliver the property, the building was condemned on the following day. In this case the owner of the property, who had engaged an attorney, who assisted the Assistant City Attorney in obtaining a confirmation of the Police Court's condemnation. It is a matter of record, sworn to by the owner of Monticello Hall, that the building inspector induced him while at a banquet was being negotiated for, and that he

**QUERIES & ANSWERS**

**Erington.** Please give the date and owner of the trotter Erington. HANOVER, 1856. Bred by Enoch Lewis, Kentucky. Owned by K. C. Barker, Detroit, Mich.

**Song Wanted.** Will you print or obtain for me the words to the song, "Nobody's Darling"? W. G. M. If some reader will send copy and you send stamp.

**Letters Without Signatures.** Young Girl, May, E. E. R. X. Y. Z., and several others send letters which have no signature of real name. Such letters are never answered.

**"Married Name."** Should Miss Nellie Martha Smith marry Mr. John Paul Jones, what would be her proper name legally and socially? Q. R. Mrs. John Paul Jones.

**Proper Names.** Please tell me how many and what divisions there are of the sources of Lake Beardsley's division—hospitality. R. C. You could hardly do better than take Beardsley's division—hospitality, local, official, occupational, bibliquet.

**Every Man His Price.** Will you tell me who it was who declared that every one has his price? R. S. W. The statement is said to have been made by Horace Walpole, though there is grave reason to doubt if he ever said any such thing.

**Amber.** Please tell me exactly what amber is. M. N. N. The resin which flowed from the trunks of certain trees of the tertiary epoch.

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